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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/581,380 | 06/01/2006 | Robertus Martinus M. Diks | F7743(V) | 3881 |
| 201 7590 10/12/2011 UNILEVER PATENT GROUP 800 SYLVAN AVENUE AG West S. Wing ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS, NJ 07632-3100 | | | | |
| EXAMINER SMITH, PRESTON | | | | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 1782 | | | | |
| NOTIFICATION DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | |
| 10/12/2011 | | ELECTRONIC | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentgroupus@unilever.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/581,380

Applicant(s)

DIKS ET AL.

Examiner

PRESTON SMITH

Art Unit

1782

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2011.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 11-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 11-18 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-884)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/15/2011 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-5,11-15,17-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander Sher, US-Patent 6,468,576 in view of Jaun Gonzalez, US-Patent 6,146,672 and Niklaus Meister, US-Patent 6,060,105.

Regarding claims 1-5,14-15,17-18, Sher teaches an emulsion having about 2-4 % weight milk protein (column 4, lines 37-38), 0.1-5wt% emulsifier (column 2, line 22), 2-6 % vegetable oil (column 5, line 25. Vegetable oils are known sources of phytosterols). The emulsifiers may be monoglycerides, diglycerides, lecithin, or combinations thereof (column 2, line 49).

Sher fails to teach sterilizing the emulsion and the emulsifier having an HLB below 16.

Referring to the HLB, Gonzalez teaches that monoglycerides, diglycerides, lecithin commonly have HLBs of 5 or less (column 2, line 24). Sher teaches emulsifiers such as be monoglycerides, diglycerides, lecithin, or combinations thereof as mentioned previously. It would have been obvious to look to Gonzalez for HLB values for emulsifiers commonly used in foods since Sher does not specify the HLB values. Additionally, in light of Gonzalez, it is considered that the claimed emulsifier range would have been obvious and discoverable through routine experimentation. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to adjust the HLB depending on the desired properties of the emulsion of the composite invention.

Referring to sterilizing the composition, Meister teaches that its well known in the art to sterilize milk compositions at temperatures of 120-145 C (column 2, line 54). Sher

teaches preferably raising to 170-175F (column 3, line 45) but not to sterilization temperatures. It would have been obvious to further sterilize the composition of Sher

in light of Meister since this would reduce microbial growth thus extending shelf life and make the composition safer.

Referring to the suspension having a viscosity of from 2-100 mPaS at a temperature between 5 and 25 C and a shear rate of 100 Hz, the composition of Sher has a viscosity of 150 cP-2000 cP or 0.15 mPaS-2mPaS at room temperature (column 2, line 34). Viscosity is strongly dependent on temperature and decreasing temperature would increase viscosity. The viscosity of applicant is thus considered obvious and discoverable by routine experimentation in light of Sher. It is unclear how the claimed "shear rate" term would alter the range of Sher however absent a showing that the claimed "shear rate" would substantially change the range of Sher such that the claimed viscosity would not be obvious in light of Sher, it appears that the viscosity limitation is obvious in light of Sher.

Regarding claim 11, Sher teaches thickeners such as kappa carrageenans in an amount of 0.01-0.03% (column 2, line 46).

Regarding claim 12, Sher teaches 6 months (column 9, line 25).

Regarding claim 13, in light of the emulsifier range taught by Sher (0.1-5%, the ranges overlap), it is considered this range would have been obvious and discoverable through routine experimentation.

Claim 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander Sher, US-Patent 6,468,576 in view of Jaun Gonzalez, US-Patent 6,146,672, Niklaus Meister, US-Patent 6,060,105, and Shin Koike, US-PGPub 2003/0054082.

Regarding claim 16, the references teach the invention of claim 1 however the references fail to further teach the composition having 0.2-4 wt% phytosterol ester.

Koike teaches that it well known to add phytosterol esters in an amount of 0.05-20% to foods in order to reduce cholesterol and improve the healthiness of foods. It would have been obvious to add phytosterol esters to the composition of the composite invention discussed previously since this would improve the healthiness of the food. Also, in light of the range taught by Koike, one of ordinary skill would have found the claimed range obvious and discoverable through routine experimentation.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PRESTON SMITH whose telephone number is (571)270-7084. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Th 6:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571)272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Drew E Becker/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1782

prs